



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JANUARY 2017

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met January 6, 2017, at the Central Office of the Department of Corrections (DOC) in Des Moines. Director Jerry Bartruff welcomed the Board and provided an update of his activity since the last meeting, which included preparing the DOC budget request for FY 2018 and preparations for the upcoming legislative session.

Warden Appointments. Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) Warden Nick Ludwick is retiring from that position. Patti Wachtendorf, currently the Warden of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW), was appointed Warden of the ISP. Sheryl Dahm, currently the Warden of the Clarinda Correctional Facility, was appointed Warden of the ICIW.

Prison Population Forecast. Lettie Prell of the DOC and Sarah Fineran of the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) of the Department of Human Rights presented the [Iowa Prison Population Forecast for FY 2016-FY 2026](#). The prison population is expected to remain stable through FY 2017. Long-term projections show an estimated 30.0% increase in inmates to over 10,600 by the end of FY 2026. This is a result of an increase in new and returning prison admissions and the length of stay for offenders, while the number of offenders being released remains fairly stable. Some observations from the CJJP analysis of the prison population are that African Americans continue to be overrepresented in the prison population (especially among those serving a mandatory 70.0% sentence); prison admissions related to meth as a primary drug are increasing, while prison admissions related to marijuana as a primary drug are decreasing; prison admissions related to cocaine as a primary drug are stable; and sex offenders usually serve more time in prison than other inmates within the same offense classes.

The forecast also lists several opportunities for policy changes to lessen the growth of the prison population, including:

- Increase the number of parolees.
- Reconsider the punishment for drug offenders and examine modifications to powder and crack cocaine sentences.
- Modify the approach for sentencing of sex offenders.
- Reexamine the mandatory minimum sentence for robbery offenses.
- Reconsider offender sentences for crimes committed when the defendant was under the age of 18.

The DOC has not drafted any specific legislation based upon the findings of this analysis.

Policy Review. The DOC is starting the process of reviewing its policies. The Board approved changes to policies in the following areas:

- Public website and social media sites.
- Uniform, dress, appearance, and grooming.
- Offender grievances procedures.
- Use of force.
- Security restraints.
- Standards for firearms and munition.
- Offender work programs.
- Offender work-related accident compensation procedures.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on February 2, 2017, at the Central Office in Des Moines. This will be after the Legislative Breakfast. For additional information, see the DOC Website: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/BoardOfCorrections>.

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